

Remarks

By the foregoing amendments, the specification has been amended to update the priority information upon entry of the present application into the U.S. National Phase: these amendments add no new matter. The specification has also been amended to replace the sequence listing as filed in the international application with a substitute sequence listing in proper format for U.S. practice. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821-1.825, the computer readable and paper copies of the substitute sequence listing submitted herewith are the same and include no new matter.

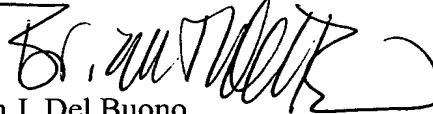
By the foregoing amendments, claims 3, 5, 13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 36-41, 43-47, 50-93, 100, 101, 105, 106 and 107 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-19, 21, 24-25, 27, 30, 33, 35, 42, 48-49, 94-97, 99, and 102-104 are sought to be amended, and new claims 108-112 are sought to be entered. These amendments are sought to place the claims into proper form for U.S. practice, do not introduce new matter, and are supported in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 18-26; pages 24-25; pages 71-72; pages 76-77; and original claim 13. New claims 108-112 do not introduce new matter and are supported in original claims 49, 95, 97, and 99. Hence, their entry and consideration are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-2, 4, 6-12, 14-15, 17-19, 21, 24-25, 27, 30, 33, 35, 42, 48-49, 94-99, 102-104, 108-112 are pending in the application, with 1 and 25 being the independent claims.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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